

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on October 9, 2024.

Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, MA
on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900.

Officer Roll Call:

Commander – Dick Hynes	Present
Senior Vice Commander – John Milot	Present
Junior Vice Commander - John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Excused
Finance - Dave Labonte	Excused
SGT at Arms – Dawn Anderson	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

10 Members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes at 1900.

- Colors posted by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis.
- POW/MIA flag and chair placed at all meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of POW's and MIA's still unaccounted for.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.
- Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all.

Roll call of all Officers.

- See attendance chart on sheet 1.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting:

- A copy of the September meeting minutes were posted on the Post’s website so that members could read them before today’s meeting. Members who had not read them beforehand were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as posted. After a discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion was accepted.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- The National Commander offered his congratulations for our Post achieving 100% in our membership for 2024. He sent us a certificate of achievement.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- The Finance Officer was absent, so the financial report for September was tabled until the next meeting.

Post Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- None.

Senior Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- The goal for membership in 2025 is 92 members. The current target is 55% and we are currently at 51%. We would need 4 more members to reach our target.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- The Historian will be digitizing and archiving numerous items that he has recently received.
- CDR Hynes gave him an “old, greasy” baseball shirt that had “Simon’s” on it as the sponsor.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- The Quartermaster will get patches sewn onto the jackets at Donna’s so that they will be all set when they are purchased.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Outreach is ongoing and is doing well. Bingo at Benchmark has been cancelled until January because of the flu virus at the facility.
- The Chaplain went on an Honor Flight with a Veteran to Washington D.C. as his sponsor. He said the experience was unbelievable.
- The Chaplain worked at the Senior Expo with the Veteran’s Service Officer.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- The Service Officer is now accredited with the National Association of VSO’s after meeting the necessary requirements.
- The Knights of Columbus made a donation of \$1000.00 to the Veteran’s Gift Fund.
- The Veteran’s Day luncheon at the Elks Lodge will have Pat Doyle as the guest speaker.

- CDR Hynes said that the town of Franklin is fortunate to have Shannon Nisbett as our VSO. She does an outstanding job, and we are proud to have her as a member of the Post.
- There was a Women’s Veteran workshop recently held and there were five women in attendance. The workshop was conducted by Jessica Frost, who is the Director of State Women’s Network.

Unfinished business:

- CDR Hynes said that there was a very good turnout at the Fallen Heroes ceremony for Eddie Grant on the common. Debora Martin took pictures, and they were passed out for members to see. CDR Hynes will submit one to the Department for the Legionnaire magazine. He said that this has to be done by the 25th of the month.
- The Medal of Liberty ceremony was held in Milford, and it went very well. Anthony Mucciarone was the town’s honoree. His nephew Jack and his daughter Morgan were there to represent the family. Jack has many awards that were given to members of the Mucciarone family, and he would be willing to share them if we ever highlight the family’s participation in the war at some point.
- We are all set for the Post Commander’s Banquet. A check has been written for the advertisement in the program by the Finance Officer. An artwork is still needed for the advertisement. CDR Hynes said that we should include a picture of Eddie Grant in the artwork, and he will assist in getting that done.
- The “Be The One” online training course is ongoing. CDR Hynes took the course, and he highly recommends it. It takes around one and twenty minutes to complete.
- Senior Vice Milot said that the Harvest Festival that was recently held was successful. Five people showed an interest in joining the Post and were given information on joining. The total of donations collected in the donation jar was \$18.00, and \$5.00 was donated to Operation Care Package.
- CDR Hynes wants to place an advertisement in the Senior Center magazine and the Elk’s newsletter. He had asked Danielle Hopkins to take care of the Senior Center’s magazine, but she never got that done. He will see about getting this done and the Service Officer will assist him in this effort.
- A request was received from Craig, who runs the Poker tournament in Walpole, for a letter from the Post which says that we appreciate what they do for us and for us to provide a description of what we do with the money that we receive. CDR Hynes read this letter to the members. Craig received the letter and replied that he appreciated it.

New business:

- Senior Vice Milot talked about a possible dinner for Veterans and their guests along with the VFW Post on December 7th.
- He said that the Elks Riders will be making a donation of \$500.00 at the Town Council meeting on November 20th.
- Jan Prentice informed the Post that she may have found a “Fallen Hero” that had been missed. This will be looked into.
- Wreaths Across America will be held again this year at the National Cemetery in Bourne. The deadline to sponsor a wreath is November 28th. The wreaths will be placed on the graves on December 14th. Volunteers can go to the website for Wreaths Across America to sign up for this. The wreaths must be removed on the Saturday following Christmas. It was suggested that we volunteer to remove them instead of placing them as there are fewer volunteers who remove them than place them. A motion was made and seconded for the Post to make a contribution of \$150.00 to Wreaths Across America. After a discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion was accepted. The Finance Officer will make the donation.
- The District Commander of Norfolk County needs to put together a five-person committee that will contact members of Post 462 (the holding Post) to see if they can be transferred to active Posts. There are roughly 8 or 9 members from Medway, Bellingham and Franklin that can be contacted.
- CDR Hynes said that some changes to the By-Laws will be discussed at the next meeting. These changes include such things as making the Commander, Senior-Vice Commander and Junior-Vice

Commander the only roles that will be voted on. The others would be appointed. Also, nominations for Post Officers would no longer be mailed out to members.

For the good of the Legion:

- None.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by SGT At Arms Dawn Anderson.
- Colors retired by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Hynes.